



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

04 JAN 2006

Mr. Ronnie Raum
Forest Supervisor
Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Road
Rolla, Missouri 65401

Dear Mr. Raum:

RE: Mark Twain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan,
Implementation, Revision to the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan,
Several Counties, MO

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Forest's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Revision of Forest Management Plan, Mark Twain National Forest. The EPA reviewed this FEIS document in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. This FEIS was assigned Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 20050499.

EPA appreciates the additional information and discussion on issues that were conveyed as concerns in our comments on the Draft EIS (DEIS). It is apparent by the responses to comments on the DEIS, that the Forest Service is cognizant of the adverse impacts that may arise from various management prescriptions, and is offering sound mitigation solutions. EPA does not have any concerns with the implementation of Alternative 3.

With respect to air quality measurements of prescribed burning, EPA will continue dialogue with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Service in identifying appropriate monitoring tools, monitoring sites, and opportunities for cost-sharing. EPA envisions that Missouri's Smoke Management Plan will incorporate guidance on any additional monitoring that is above the Forest's current capabilities.

It was a pleasure working with your technical staff during the NEPA process. Their professionalism and diligent consideration of all input is commendable. Please contact me at (913) 551-7148 or cothern.joe@epa.gov if EPA assistance is needed.

Sincerely,

for:

Joseph E. Cothorn
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division